

STAR OF COURAGE

Mr Oguz Hakan TASKUN, 17 Hayes Street, Lidcombe NSW 2141

On the morning of 19 April 2004, Mr Taskun apprehended and disarmed an offender who had stabbed a man near Auburn Railway Station, New South Wales.

Mr Taskun was on his way to work when he saw a man with a knife chasing another man who was covered with blood. Mr Taskun ran after the two men and saw the armed man slash the victim across the chest, inflicting a wound that bled freely. As Mr Taskun neared the two men, he told the armed man to drop the knife. The offender threatened Mr Taskun and continued pursuing the victim, stabbing him in the abdomen. Fearing that the man under attack was going to be killed, Mr Taskun continued to give chase to try to stop the attack. He finally caught the armed man and grabbed him from behind, tackling him to the ground forcing him to drop the knife. Mr Taskun appealed to members of the public to assist and two men came forward and held the man down while Mr Taskun put the knife into a plastic bag. Mr Taskun gave instructions to members of the public to contact the police and ambulance and to divert traffic around the scene. He then administered first aid to the victim while waiting for emergency services to arrive.

By his actions, Mr Taskun displayed conspicuous courage.

Phone Nos: Home: 02 8436 1925 Work: 0406 990 348 Mobile: 0402 031 264

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Jack Daniel AVERY, 8 Brown Street, Newport Vic 3015

On 24 May 2003, Mr Avery rescued his two brothers and sister from their burning house in Newport, Victoria.

Mr Avery, then thirteen years old, was alerted to a fire in his house in the early hours of the morning by his mother's screams. The house was filled with thick black smoke and visibility was poor. Covering his mouth, he ran towards the sound of his brother's and sister's screams. He found his brother and sister, disoriented, at the end of the hallway and, after investigating the best way of leaving the house; picked them up and carried them down the hallway and out through the front door to safety. Despite the house still burning, Mr Avery re-entered the building to help his mother evacuate his other brother who was immobile and unable to walk. Mr Avery picked his brother up and with his mother exited the house. While neighbours tried to extinguish the fire with garden hoses, Mr Avery rang 000 to report the fire. The fire subsequently destroyed the house.

By his actions, Mr Avery displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home: 03 9391 4072 Mobile: 0414 528 643

Mrs Tracy Lee-Ann DAVIES, 37 Sims Street, Esperance WA 6450

On the night of Saturday 12 October 2002, and in the early hours of Sunday 13 October 2002, Mrs Davies helped rescue badly injured people from Paddy's Bar, Bali, following a terrorist bombing.

At the time of the two explosions, Mrs Davies was in Paddy's Bar. The force of the bomb blasts threw her forward and onto the floor of the restroom. After a while, she managed to find her way through the darkness and the smoke to the front of the bar where she met up with her travelling companion. Hearing cries for help from injured people still inside the building, Mrs Davies and her friend re-entered the bar a number of times and, with the assistance of others, carried injured people to an adjoining laneway. Mrs Davies only ceased rescue efforts when it became too dangerous to continue.

By her actions, Mrs Davies displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

Mr Timothy John FARMER, 44 Ridgeview Road, Cannonvale Qld 4802

On the morning of 2 August 2005, Mr Farmer rescued a young girl from a fire in a car at a service station in Jabiru, Northern Territory.

Mr Farmer, a tourist, was refuelling his car with petrol when he was alerted to a fire in the back of a station wagon parked in front of his vehicle. Observing flames in the rear window of the station wagon, he ran over and saw a small child in the back seat. Without hesitation, he opened the driver's side rear door to rescue the child and was momentarily forced to step back as smoke billowed from the car. He then reached inside and removed a young girl whose clothing was on fire. In doing so he received burns to his hands.

By his actions, Mr Farmer displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home: 07 4946 5073 Mobile: 0417 787 570

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Lyall Mervyn FISHER, 51 Duke Street, Roma Qld 4455

On the afternoon of 10 October 2004, Mr Fisher attempted to rescue his nephew from a house fire in Roma, Queensland.

At about 5.25 pm, Mr Fisher went to check on the whereabouts of his son and young nephew who had been playing in the rumpus garage area of the house. As he entered the kitchen which adjoined the area, he saw it was filled with smoke. After alerting the other occupants of the house to the fire, he went outside and, believing the two young boys were still in the building, opened one of the garage doors. The garage was filled with smoke. He entered, calling for the boys, but was unable to find them and exited through a rear sliding door. He returned to the front of the house and, still believing the boys to be inside, re-entered the garage. He felt around for the boys but could not locate them. Unable to stay in the garage due to the intense heat and smoke, he was forced to exit the building. His clothes were on fire and he had to be hosed down. Although suffering from burns, he then attempted to fight the fire using a garden hose but was forced to withdraw when material stored in the garage started to explode. Mr Fisher later discovered that his son was not in the garage and was unharmed. Sadly, however, his nephew died in the blaze. Mr Fisher was himself badly burned and required hospitalisation.

By his actions, Mr Fisher displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home: 07 4622 4419 Mobile: 0429 101 327

Mr Pedro Ivan HAEDO, 6/21-23 Nagle Street, Liverpool NSW 2170

Details not available at the request of Mr Haedo.

Mr Kevin Wayne HINES, 53 Macquarie Street, Chifley NSW 2036

On the morning of 24 December 2004, Mr Hines helped to disarm and restrain an offender at Matraville, New South Wales.

Mr Hines had just arrived at work at a retail store in Matraville when two male offenders entered the premises. One of the men, armed with a gun, went to the office and ordered the store owner and an employee to get down on the floor. The other offender then forced Mr Hines into the office and also ordered him down on the floor. The offenders threatened all three men in the office with the gun. One of the offenders struck Mr Hines and the other employee with a vacuum cleaner, causing a bleeding injury to the back of Mr Hines' head. Mr Hines was also struck in the back while the men were demanding the keys to the safe from the store owner. The offenders tied Mr Hines' and the other employee's hands while continuing to threaten them and to punch and push the store owner, during which the gun fired. The two offenders ran from the office out onto the street and the store owner and other employee chased them. Mr Hines followed once he had freed his hands. During a struggle, the store owner was shot. Mr Hines and his workmate wrestled with the gunman, while the second offender fled the scene. With the assistance of a third employee who had joined them, they were able to disarm the man and restrain him until police arrived. Sadly, the store owner died from his wound.

By his actions, Mr Hines displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Work: 02 9661 5377 Mobile: 0419 248 578

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Simon Christopher HUGGINS, PO Box 375, Mornington Vic 3931

On the afternoon of 3 March 2004, Mr Huggins rescued two people from a light plane crash at Tyabb, Victoria.

Mr Huggins and a colleague were working in a paddock at a market garden in Tyabb when they saw a plane flying low and trailing smoke. The plane crash-landed in a paddock about 100 metres away from them and flipped onto its roof. After running to the plane, Mr Huggins climbed under a broken wing and saw a woman and a man inside the plane. In spite of the danger of post-impact fire or an explosion as a result of fuel leakage, Mr Huggins pulled the perspex canopy off the plane to free the woman. He then climbed into the cockpit so that he could release the man's seatbelt and help him to safety.

By his actions, Mr Huggins displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

Mr Mark Andrew JACKSON, deceased, Late of Ryde NSW 2112

In the early hours of the morning of 19 July 2001, Mr Jackson chased and attempted to restrain an armed offender at the Taverners Hill Hotel, Leichhardt, New South Wales.

Mr Jackson, an off duty employee of the hotel, was present when two men, one armed with a knife, the other with a handgun, attempted to rob the hotel. While the man with the gun ordered patrons to the rear of the bar, the man with the knife emptied the cash registers. When the gunman was distracted momentarily, a patron seized the opportunity and hit him on the side of the head with a barstool. Mr Jackson chased and tackled the gunman as he was running from the hotel. Mr Jackson then wrestled with the man and was wounded when shots were fired. The man dropped the gun and fled, while the second robber left the hotel from a rear exit. Sadly, Mr Jackson died from his wound shortly after reaching hospital.

By his actions, Mr Jackson displayed considerable bravery, thereby losing his life.

Next of Kin: Mrs Margaret Jackson (Mother)

Phone Nos: Home: 02 9807 8079 Mobile: 0409 101 428

Mrs Sharon Elizabeth MAYO, 1066 Milina Place, Tom Price WA 6751

Details not available at the request of Mrs Mayo.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr James RAWAS, deceased, Late of Maroubra NSW 2035

On the morning of 24 December 2004, Mr Rawas pursued and attempted to disarm an offender at Matraville, New South Wales.

Mr Rawas, the owner of a retail store in Matraville, was working in the office when two male offenders entered the premises. One of the men, armed with a gun, went into the office and ordered Mr Rawas and an employee to get down on the floor. The second offender forced another employee into the office and on the floor. After striking the two employees with a vacuum cleaner and threatening them with the gun, the offenders demanded the keys to the safe from Mr Rawas. On being told that Mr Rawas did not have the keys, the men tied the hands of the two employees and struck one of them again. The men continued to push and punch Mr Rawas while demanding the keys. The gun was fired and the two offenders ran from the office and out into the street. Mr Rawas grabbed a decorative machete that he kept in the office and with one of his employees, who had managed to free his tied hands, chased the offenders. While attempting to restrain the armed offender, Mr Rawas was shot. The second offender then fled. The other employee in the store had also run out as soon as he could free his hands and both employees then wrestled with the gunman, who was still trying to fire his gun. With the assistance of a third employee who arrived on the scene, they were able to disarm the man and hold him until police arrived. Sadly, Mr Rawas died from the wound inflicted.

By his actions, Mr Rawas displayed considerable bravery, thereby losing his life.

Next of Kin: Mrs Consuelo Rawas (Wife)

Phone Nos: Home: 02 9314 2565 Work: 02 9384 3112 Mobile: 0419 602 132

Senior Constable David William RAYMOND, Queensland Police

On the afternoon of 6 February 2004, Senior Constable Raymond rescued a youth from floodwaters in the Mulgrave River at Goldsborough Valley, Queensland.

Senior Constable Raymond had just arrived home from work when a neighbour told him that a boy had fallen from Peets Bridge into the flooded Mulgrave River. Senior Constable Raymond advised the police communications centre of the incident as he drove to the scene in his police vehicle. When he arrived, he saw a 14-year-old boy holding on to a tree in the middle of the river about 50 metres from the bridge. Senior Constable Raymond reassured the boy, then collected ropes from his vehicle and, holding one end of the rope while people on the bridge held the other end, attempted to reach the boy by walking into the water. However, he was dragged under by the force of the flood and, unable to reach the boy, was pulled back and assisted onto the bridge. Senior Constable Raymond then returned to his home and collected his kayak, a life jacket and more rope. With the assistance of people on the bridge, he tied rope to the kayak and then paddled out to the boy. The kayak was swamped by water and capsized, but Senior Constable Raymond managed to grab hold of a tree close to the boy. He then instructed the people on the bridge to throw the life jacket attached to a rope to him. He reached across and put the life jacket on the boy who was pulled to safety. The life jacket was then thrown back to Senior Constable Raymond and he too was pulled to safety.

By his actions, Senior Constable Raymond displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Work: 07 4056 5608

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mrs Shelley Maree ROBERTSON, 2 Water Street, Guildford WA 6055

On the morning of 27 December 2004, Ms Robertson rescued two people caught in a rip at Geographe Bay in Busselton, Western Australia.

Ms Robertson was on the beach with her family when she heard a woman screaming for help. She saw that a man and two boys were in difficulty and being carried out to sea in a strong rip. One of the boys managed to swim back to shore but the other boy and the man were already a long way out. Ms Robertson jumped into the water and swam out to the man and boy. By the time she reached them, the man was barely conscious and sinking. Ms Robertson grabbed him and held his head above the water. She then attempted to calm the boy who feared for his now unconscious father. Ms Robertson instructed the boy to hold onto her around the neck and kick as hard as he could. Ms Robertson swam for some 15 minutes in an attempt to tow the two across the rip and get them to shore. She was still 150–200 metres from shore and becoming exhausted and at times fearful for all of their lives when a sailboarder came to their aid. Ms Robertson helped to push the man onto the sailboarder's back and continued to swim back to shore with the boy. After delivering the man to the beach, the sailboarder returned to Ms Robertson and towed the boy the remaining 25 metres to shore, while Ms Robertson swam beside them.

By her actions, Ms Robertson displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home: 08 9379 9832 Work: 08 9420 7459 Mobile: 0414 986 917

Mr George Callum SOUTAR, 142 Coorabell Road, Federal NSW 2480

Details not available at the request of Mr Soutar.

Mr Darren Ian SOUTHON, 170 Wilsons Hill Road, Marong Vic 3515

On the afternoon of 20 May 2005, Mr Southon went to assist in the rescue of a woman and child from a burning vehicle after an accident at Marong, Victoria.

Mr Southon and his wife were in a paddock on their property when at about 1.00pm they saw a car drive past and crash into a tree, after the driver had lost control on the gravel road. Mr Southon and his wife immediately drove to the accident. As they approached they saw flames coming from beneath the car. Mr Southon began throwing dirt on the flames, suffering burns to his hands as he tried to pat down the fire. While his wife removed a baby from the back of the car and took the child to her house to safety and returned with fire extinguishers, Mr Southon removed a woman from the driver's seat. To do this, he had to lean into the burning car to release her seat belt and remove the brake pedal, which had penetrated her leg. Mr Southon made further attempts to extinguish the flames, getting under the car despite the risk of explosion. When he was unable to put out the fire, Mr Southon assisted his wife to move the woman further away from the car. Mr Southon then checked the car for other occupants and helped comfort the woman until ambulance and emergency services officers arrived. The car was subsequently completely incinerated.

By his actions, Mr Southon displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home: 03 5435 2002 Mobile: 0412 359 656

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Junior AFUIE, 54 Branston Road St Albans VIC 3021

On the afternoon of 30 June 2004, Mr Afuie rescued his two young nieces from their burning house at Sunshine, Victoria.

Mr Afuie, then 17 years old, was at home with his two young nieces, Lee 6 years old and Caitlan 6 months old. Lee was watching television in the lounge room and Caitlan was asleep in a front bedroom when Mr Afuie heard a loud bang. Lee ran into the kitchen saying that the couch was on fire. Mr Afuie immediately ran to the lounge room and found both the couch and the curtains alight. He grabbed hold of Lee and made his way out of the house. As the fire continued to burn in the lounge room and the house filled with dense smoke, Mr Afuie used his hands to smash the bedroom window where the baby was sleeping. He crawled into the room and felt around for Caitlan. Once he found her, he lifted her out of the cot and crawled back to the window where he climbed out to safety.

For his actions, Mr Afuie is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Not available

Mr Matthew Henry BARNES, 43 Station Street, Newtown NSW 2042

On the afternoon of 18 December 2001, Mr Barnes assisted in the rescue of a man from a burning building at Cooks River, New South Wales.

Mr Barnes, a railway signaller at the Cooks River Signal Box, was with another signaller changing shifts when they heard an explosion and immediately went to investigate. They saw that a garage opposite the signal box was on fire and, knowing that an elderly man lived there, quickly ran towards it. Although flames had already completely engulfed one side of the building and it was rapidly filling with smoke, the men entered the garage by a roller door and found the man inside in a state of shock. Mr Barnes attempted to pull the man out of the building but was unsuccessful. While his colleague assisted the man, Mr Barnes dragged a gas cylinder away from the flames into a nearby laneway. Unable to re-enter the building because flames had by then blocked the doorway, he ran to alert authorities. During this time his colleague had successfully evacuated the man through a rear door.

For his actions, Mr Barnes is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Not Available

Mr Maurice William BREWER, 5/380 Milton Road, Auchenflower Qld 4066

On the afternoon of 23 October 2003, Mr Brewer went to the assistance of an off-duty police officer who was being assaulted by two men at Auchenflower Railway Station, Queensland.

A police officer, who was on his way to work, had asked two men to stop using obscene language towards elderly people waiting on the platform. Because he was in civilian clothes, he identified himself as a police officer and asked the two men for identification. The two men then verbally and physically assaulted the police officer, punching him about the head and body. Mr Brewer, then 69 years old, saw this happening and immediately came to the officer's assistance. He grabbed hold of one of the men and dragged him away from the police officer. Although Mr Brewer was being continually punched he was able to restrain the offender until other police officers attended the scene and arrested the two men.

For his actions, Mr Brewer is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Home: 07 3217 8916

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Anthony Clifford CADDEN, 15 Chapel Street, Lilyfield NSW 2040

In the early hours of the morning of 19 July 2001, Mr Cadden took action against an armed offender at the Taverners Hill Hotel in Leichhardt, New South Wales.

Mr Cadden was in the hotel bar when two men, one armed with a knife, the other with a handgun, attempted a robbery. The man armed with a gun ordered patrons to the rear of the bar, while the man with the knife emptied the cash registers. Seeing the gunman momentarily distracted, Mr Cadden grabbed hold of a barstool and hit him on the side of the head. As a result of this action, the gunman ran from the hotel.

For his actions, Mr Cadden is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Not available

Ms Judy FAULKNER, 37 Stewart Street, Ormond Vic 3204

On the evening of Saturday 14 May 2005, Ms Faulkner came to the assistance of a woman being attacked by a girl armed with a knife at Flinders Street Railway Station in Melbourne, Victoria.

Ms Faulkner was on her way home from work when she observed a woman ask a group of girls to stop swearing. Ms Faulkner had walked a short distance away from the scene when she heard people yelling and, turning around saw one of the girls continually strike the woman in the face. The offender momentarily left the scene then returned and was handed a knife, which she used to stab the woman in the stomach. Ms Faulkner stepped in and tried to help the woman and stop the bleeding. However, the injured woman followed the female offender to a nearby toilet block where there was another altercation. Ms Faulkner remained with the woman and helped to prevent any more injury occurring. She applied first aid, rang 000 and stayed with the wounded woman until the ambulance and police arrived.

For her actions, Ms Faulkner is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Not available

Sergeant Jan Pieter GARRELS, Queensland Police

On the afternoon of 10 October 2004, Sergeant Garrels attempted to rescue a young boy from a house fire in Roma, Queensland.

Sergeant Garrels was on duty at Roma Police Station when he was informed of a house fire. On arriving at the scene he saw flames coming through the roof of the garage area of the home and was informed that a child might still be inside. Sergeant Garrels twice entered the house and, in thick smoke, searched for the missing child. He was unable to access the garage area because of the extreme heat. Sergeant Garrels informed fire officers, who had just arrived, of the situation and helped them to set up hoses. He then arranged a search of surrounding paddocks for the child and worked to control the crowd of onlookers. Sadly, the child was in the garage of the home and died in the fire.

By his actions, Sergeant Garrels is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Mobile: 0427 221 490

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Mario LANZA, PO Box 4473, Knox City Centre Vic 3152

On the afternoon of 8 April 2005, Mr Lanza helped to rescue a man from a burning vehicle after an accident at Knoxfield, Victoria.

At about 4.30pm a driver lost control of his vehicle while driving at high speed on Scoresby Road and crashed into a power pole. Mr Lanza, who had been travelling in the opposite direction had seen the accident, stopped and ran over to the car. As the car began to burn and fill with black smoke, Mr Lanza and two other men tried to open the doors to rescue the driver but found them jammed shut by the force of the impact. Mr Lanza fetched a wheel brace from his own car and again tried unsuccessfully to open the doors. On being handed a fire extinguisher, he sprayed the inside of the car through the driver's side window and then, when the driver moved into the back seat, used the empty extinguisher in an attempt to break the glass in the rear window. Despite the car being in flames, with the assistance of another man wielding an iron bar, he was able to break the window and together they pulled the injured driver to safety.

For his actions, Mr Lanza is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Work: 03 9720 8600 Mobile: 0403 774 470

Mr Simon LEUNIG, 450A Cambridge Street, Floreat WA 6104

On the morning of 5 August 2003, Mr Leunig went to the aid of people injured when a car bomb exploded outside a hotel in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Mr Leunig was in his room on the seventh floor of the Marriott Hotel in Jakarta when, at about 11.30am, he felt his room vibrate and the windows cracked and broke. He went down to the lobby of the hotel and found two women who had been injured in the blast. Although badly shaken from the blast and believing that there could be further explosions, Mr Leunig helped the women outside and assisted in administering first aid. He then saw a taxi driver lying on the ground near some taxis that were engulfed in flames. He grabbed hold of the man and dragged him a safe distance away. He then continued to administer first aid to others who were injured.

For his actions, Mr Leunig is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Home: 08 9387 2408 Work: 08 9370 6063 Mobile 0407 475 338

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Richard MONROCHE-CABON, 3/171 Carrington Road, Coogee NSW 2034

On the morning of 24 December 2004, Mr Monroeche-Cabon helped to disarm and restrain an offender at Matraville, New South Wales.

Mr Monroeche-Cabon, an employee of a retail store at Matraville, was at the back at the loading dock unaware that two offenders were inside attempting to rob the store. When he heard gunshots he ran to the front of the store and saw his employer lying in the street and a fellow employee wrestling with an offender. Mr Monroeche-Cabon ran to the aid of his colleague. He pinned the offender to the ground and, having been informed that the man had a gun concealed underneath him, forced the man to release the gun and a third colleague was able to remove it. Mr Monroeche-Cabon and his colleagues then held the offender until the police arrived. Sadly, Mr Monroeche-Cabon's employer died from a gunshot wound sustained during the incident.

For his actions, Mr Monroeche-Cabon is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Home: 02 9664 5039 Mobile: 0432 368 618

Master Tyler Stephen MOON, PO Box 776, Ulladulla NSW 2539

On the morning of 8 May 2004, Master Moon, although severely injured, sought help for his father after a quad bike accident near Milton, New South Wales.

Tyler, then 7 years old, was a passenger on the back of a quad bike driven by his father on their family property. A branch became wedged under one of the front wheels of the bike tipping it over and trapping both Tyler and his father underneath, causing multiple injuries to both. However, they managed to free themselves and attempted to walk back to their home some two kilometres away. After walking less than one kilometre, Mr Moon collapsed and was unable to go any further. Tyler, in an effort to get help for his father, walked to a neighbour's house but found no-one home. He then continued to his own home, another 500–600 metres away. After telling his mother about the accident, Tyler collapsed suffering a broken left arm, a broken left scapula, seven broken ribs and punctured lungs.

For his actions, Master Moon is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Not Available

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mrs Rebecca Deanne SELDON, 11 Basswood Court, Albany Creek Qld 4035

On the afternoon of 28 February 2005, Mrs Seldon rescued a boy who had been carried out to sea by a rip at Moreton Island, Queensland.

Mrs Seldon, a teacher, was one of several adults supervising a group of Year 6 students who were swimming in the surf at Moreton Island. Four of the students were caught in a rip and swept out to sea. Another teacher was able to assist all but one of them to shore. The remaining student was carried further out to sea. A teacher contacted emergency services but was told that help would have to come from the mainland and would take some time. Mrs Seldon then volunteered to swim out to rescue the boy. She entered the water and swam out some 300 metres to him. The boy was distressed and fatigued. Mrs Seldon supported him and swam for around 200 metres before a boat picked them up and returned them to shore.

For her actions, Mrs Seldon is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Home: 07 3264 8308 Mobile: 0411 818 299

Mrs Kerrie Anne SOUTHON, 170 Wilsons Hill Road, Marong Vic 3515

On the afternoon of 20 May 2005, Mrs Southon went to assist in the rescue of a woman and child from a burning vehicle after an accident at Marong, Victoria.

Mrs Southon and her husband were in a paddock on their property at about 1.00pm when they saw a car drive past and crash into a tree, after the driver had lost control on the gravel road. Mrs Southon and her husband immediately drove to the accident and as they approached saw flames coming from beneath the car. Mrs Southon reached into the burning car and removed a baby from the back seat. While her husband began throwing dirt on the flames to put out the fire, she drove with the baby to her house to be cared for by their daughters and then returned to the accident site with two fire extinguishers. Mr Southon had meanwhile removed a woman from the driver's seat. Mr Southon took the fire extinguishers and made further attempts to put out the flames. He was unable to extinguish the fire and fearing an explosion, Mr and Mrs Southon moved the woman further away from the car and comforted her until ambulance and emergency services officers arrived. The car was subsequently completely incinerated.

By her actions, Mrs Southon is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Home: 03 5435 2002

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Peter Brian STANOVSEK, 34 Rooding Street, Brighton Vic 3186

On the morning of 30 June 2005, Mr Stanovsek intercepted and restrained two armed offenders attempting to rob a hotel at Yarraville, Victoria.

Mr Stanovsek, the owner of the hotel, had just opened for trading when a person wearing a balaclava entered and walked into the hotel's strong room. Mr Stanovsek saw the person start to put cash into a bag. He went into the office and confronted the offender. After Mr Stanovsek grabbed the offender he noticed he was holding a gun. Mr Stanovsek reached out and was able to take the gun. The hotel maintenance man who was also present ran to help Mr Stanovsek drag the offender out of the office. At this stage they realised that the offender was a woman and the maintenance man restrained her while Mr Stanovsek called the police. Mr Stanovsek was then attacked by the offender's accomplice who had now come into the hotel. The man hit Mr Stanovsek several times over the head with a baton. However, Mr Stanovsek was able to wrestle the man to the ground and restrain him until police officers arrived.

For his actions, Mr Stanovsek is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Home: 03 9596 8443 Work: 9689 2163 Mobile: 0419 363 729

Mr William Murray WATSON, 9/51 Herbert St, Boronia Vic 3155

On the afternoon of 8 April 2005 Mr Watson helped to rescue a man from a burning vehicle after an accident at Knoxfield, Victoria.

Mr Watson was driving along Scoresby Road at about 4.30pm when a car driven at high speed overtook his vehicle, lost control and collided with a power pole. Mr Watson immediately stopped and attempted to open the doors of the crashed car. When the car burst into flames, Mr Watson and two other men continued to try to open its doors but found them all jammed. The car was filled with black smoke but Mr Watson heard banging on the rear window and tried to break the glass with an iron bar, while another man did the same with a fire extinguisher. Eventually they managed to break the glass and pull the driver to safety.

For his actions, Mr Watson is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Home: 03 9762 8220 Mobile: 0423 512 994

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

Awardees comprise members of the Birkenbeiners Nordic Ski Club and a member of the community.

Mr Robert BOLAND
Mr James Edward GARGAN
Mr Paul GRUSOVIN
Mr Gordon Foster GUEST-SMITH
Mr Jarrod Marc PAINE
Mr David Anthony PANOZZO

In the early hours of 9 August 2004, five members of the Birkenbeiners Nordic Ski Club and a member of the community were involved in the rescue of three cross country skiers caught in difficulty at the summit of Mt Bogong.

The six men in this group were volunteers tasked with the rescue mission. At approximately 12.30 am, carrying heavy loads of equipment for both their own and the three skiers' survival, they began the 4 kilometre, thousand vertical metres climb to the top of Mt Bogong in darkness, in temperatures of minus 10 degrees, with winds gusting up to 80 kmph and a wind chill factor of between minus 20 and minus 40 degrees. The terrain was very steep and covered in deep snowdrifts with dangerous drop-offs on both sides of the route they took. They found the three skiers at about 4.15 am. All three were partially buried in the snow and suffering from hypothermia, with one unconscious. The rescue party worked from then until 6.00 am erecting tents; moving the unconscious skier to shelter; and administering first aid, warm drinks and food. When the weather cleared briefly at around 9.00 am, the rescued skiers were evacuated by helicopter and the rescue party descended the mountain, arriving back at their vehicles some 12 hours after setting out.

Individual contact details:

Mr Robert BOLAND
16 Buckland Street, Tawonga South Vic 3698
Phone Nos: Home: 03 5754 4825 Work: 0419 622 003

Mr James Edward GARGAN
10 Stewarts Road, Tawonga South Vic 3698
Phone Nos: Not available

Mr Paul GRUSOVIN
5 Dederang Road, Tawonga South Vic 3698
Phone Nos: Home: 03 5754 1232 Work: 03 5722 0227 Mobile: 0408 595 753

Mr Gordon Foster GUEST-SMITH
1 Butchers Road, Sale Vic 3853
Phone Nos: Mobile: 0417 534 007

Mr Jarrod Marc PAINE
123 Simmonds Creek Road, Tawonga South Vic 3698
Phone Nos: Home: 03 5754 1771 Work: 03 5754 1732 Mobile: 0408 126 990

Mr David Anthony PANOZZO

Details not available at the request of Mr Panozzo.